

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A device for positioning separately supplied elongate meat products for use with a crimper, comprising: two driven endless aligning conveyors running with the transport paths substantially parallel to each other, which transport paths together form a support for the meat products for transporting such that, at the position where the transport paths are mutually adjacent, ~~they are in a lower position than when at a greater mutual distance~~ the support adapted to receive meat products from the crimper wherein the support forms a chute that aligns the meat products during the displacement of the conveyors.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distance between the aligning conveyors is smaller than the smallest diameter perpendicularly of the longitudinal axis through the elongate meat products.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the aligning conveyors are constructed from a plurality of substantially form-retaining segments which are fixed to an endless support member.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the device also comprises a discharge conveyor located at least partially under the transport paths of the aligning conveyors.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the device also comprises a feed member for elongate meat products which is located partially above the transport paths of the aligning conveyors.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 5,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the feed member for elongate meat products is formed by a crimper wheel.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the aligning conveyors are driven such that they are displaceable with a difference in speed.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transport paths of the aligning conveyors have a path section running substantially parallel to each other which transposes into a path section where the distance between the transport paths increases in the direction of transport.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A method for positioning separately supplied elongate meat products by comprising the successive steps of:

- a) collecting successively supplied elongate meat products from a supply position by means of two aligning conveyors running with the transport paths substantially parallel to each other,
- b) displacing the aligning conveyors with the meat products supported thereby in the direction of transport, and
- c) unloading the positioned elongate meat products from the aligning conveyors through an opening between the transport

paths of the aligning conveyors, which opening increases in the direction of transport.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ during processing step a) the ¹⁵ transport paths of the aligning conveyors, owing to the form thereof, guide the meat products to a preferred orientation in axial direction during collection of the meat products.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ during processing step b) the transport paths of the aligning conveyors, guide the meat products to a preferred orientation in axial direction during displacing of the meat products.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the aligning conveyors are displaced at different speeds during processing step b).

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the difference in speed with which the aligning conveyors are displaced amounts to less than 10% of the speed of the fastest-moving aligning conveyor.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the aligning conveyors unload the meat products during processing step c) in that they drop downward between the two aligning conveyors.

Claim 15. (New) A device for positioning separately supplied elongate meat products comprising:

- a) means for collecting successively supplied elongate meat products from a supply position by means of two aligning conveyors running with the transport paths substantially parallel to each other,
- b) means for displacing the aligning conveyors with the meat products supported thereby in the direction of transport, and
- c) means for unloading the positioned elongate meat products from the aligning conveyors through an opening between the transport paths of the aligning conveyors, which opening increases in the direction of transport.

Claim 16. (New) The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein during processing step a) the transport paths of the aligning conveyors, owing to the form thereof, guide the meat products to a preferred orientation in axial direction during collection of the meat products.

Claim 17. (New) The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein during processing step b) the transport paths of the aligning conveyors, guide the meat products to a preferred orientation in axial direction during displacing of the meat products.

Claim 18. (New) The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the aligning conveyors are displaced at different speeds during processing step b).

Claim 19. (New) The device as claimed in claim 18, wherein the difference in speed with which the aligning conveyors are displaced amounts to less than 10% of the speed of the fastest-moving aligning conveyor.

Claim 20. (New) The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the aligning conveyors unload the meat products during processing step c) in that they drop downward between the two aligning conveyors.